**Hexima FSTE Cadetship Video**

**Amanda:** La Trobe has offered the Cadetship Program during uni holidays, so while you’re having a break from study you can get into the industry and gain some experience and meet some people in the field. So it’s a good opportunity to get out and see what really happens in the field, and to do a bit more practical work.

**Gianna:** Hexima Limited is a plant biotech company that has been involved since its inception in 1998 with improving disease and insect resistance in crops. Hexima Limited’s been involved with the Industry Cadetship Program since this facility opened which was about three years ago.

I think the company took the viewpoint that it’s a good opportunity for the students to get experience in a real life work situation, and as well as that for the company’s benefit having students that are being trained that can be potential resources down the track as well.

**Amanda:** The things I’ve learnt in my degree have really be able to be applied, and when people are explaining things I actually understand what they’re talking about, which is really reassuring, and it gives you a bit more confidence that you’re actually doing ok and that you’re in the right area.

**Gianna:** Being involved with the Cadetship Program has been a very positive experience. The students generally have been really enthusiastic, they’ve worked well in our team environment here in the facility, and generally they seem to have enjoyed the whole process.

**Amanda:** Meeting people in the industry has been a big thing. Just learning where people have come from, they’ve all got a different story, a different history, they’ve worked at it from a different direction, and it’s been really good to see what kind of skills the industry is looking for, and strong points that people have.

**Gianna:** A good work ethic in your career is critical. Most of the fields that students are going to end up working within are very close communities. This can be to your advantage when you’re networking as part of your career path planning, but it can also work against you because it is a close community and word gets out, and if you haven’t worked on getting a good reputation and a good work ethic it will get around.

**Amanda:** Yeah, it’s definitely been very positive and everyone here has been excellent.